

Re Box No.V

1. The present report makes reference to the following documents:

D1: "IEEE standard Part 11: wireless LAN medium access control (MAC) and physical layer (PHY) specification. (ISO/IEC 8802-11, ANSI/IEEE Std 802.11-1999) Chapter 9: MAC sublayer functional description" ISO/IEC 8802-11 ANSI/IEEE STD 802.11, XX, XX, 20 August 1999 (1999-08-20), Pages 70-97, XP002207974

D2: WALKE B ET AL: "Protocols for a wireless ATM multihop network" BROADBAND COMMUNICATIONS, 1998. ACCESSING, TRANSMISSION, NETWORKING, PROCEEDINGS. 1998 INTERNATIONAL ZURICH SEMINAR ON ZURICH, SWITZERLAND 17-19 FEB. 1998, NEW YORK, NY, USA, IEEE, US, 17 February 1998 (1998-02-17), Pages 75-82, XP010277017 ISBN: 0-7803-3893-6

2. **Claim 1** relates to a method for signaling relating to an intended ad-hoc data transmission from a first radio station to a second radio station. Such a method, as assumed in the preamble of Claim 1, is already disclosed in the cited document **D1** (WLAN specification IEEE 802.11), in which a collision avoidance algorithm (collision avoidance protocol CSMA/CA) is described, by means of which the ad-hoc data transmission from a first radio station to a second radio station of an ad-hoc system is prepared.

However, only **one** previously defined frequency is available to the radio stations in **D1** for their communication, whereas a **number of sub-bands** of a frequency range (e.g. a

number of OFDM sub-bands) are assigned to the radio stations according to Claim 1. Admittedly, the use of a frequency band (OFDM) which is divided into a plurality of sub-bands is already known from the developments of the IEEE 802.11 specification disclosed in **D1**. However, the effects on the CSMA/CA protocol are not described therein.

According to the subject matter of Claim 1, the first radio station sends the second radio station a notification (RTS) relating to the forthcoming data transmission via one or more sub-bands which have been assigned to the first radio station or the second radio station for the data transmission.

Such a method is neither disclosed nor suggested by the available prior art documents, either individually or in combination. Admittedly, document **D2** describes a signaling method in an ad-hoc system, in which the communication frequencies are dynamically distributed. However, the signaling relating to an intended ad-hoc data transmission between the radio stations takes place via a separate channel (ACH). Neither **D1** nor **D2** specifies the effects on the CSMA/CA protocol of using a frequency band which is divided into a plurality of sub-bands.

Consequently, the subject matter of Claim 1 must be considered novel and inventive; PCT Article 33(2) and (3). The subject matter of Claim 1 is likewise industrially applicable; PCT Article 33(4).

The above findings apply equally to the **independent Claim 7** which defines the corresponding method in relation to the second radio station (i.e. the radio station receiving the

notification) and to the **independent Claims 13, 15, 17 and 18** which define the corresponding radio stations and computer program products. Therefore all of the Claims 7, 13, 15, 17 and 18 likewise satisfy the requirements of PCT Article 33.

The **dependent Claims 2 to 6, 8 to 12, 14 and 16** relate to advantageous developments of the subject matter of the Claims 1, 7, 13 and 15 and therefore likewise satisfy all the requirements of PCT Article 33.

3. Further remarks

- 3.1 The expression **"in particular"** in **Claim 7** should be avoided, since it can cause ambiguity (see PCT Guidelines, Chapter II-5.40). An expression such as "in particular" does **not** restrict the scope of a claim, because the feature following the expression is regarded as entirely **optional**.